

ABSTRACT

The present invention allows for increasing an autofocus-response characteristic. An image-pickup sensor makes exposures ex 11 and ex12 (Fig. 7C) in synchronization with a video-vertical-synchronization signal VP1 (Fig. 7A). A camera-signal processing unit reads video signals obtained through the exposures ex11 and ex12 at timings VR12 and VR 21, respectively (Fig. 7D). An AF-detection unit captures a high-frequency component of a video signal corresponding to an AF-detection-reduction gate frame (hereinafter simply referred to as a gate frame) at the timing of the gate frame, rectifies and detects the high-frequency component, and generates a focus-evaluation value immediately after the gate-frame timing. An AF module captures a plurality of the focus-evaluation values at the timing of an AF module AF 2 (Fig. 7F), generates an autofocus-control signal LD3 which brings a focus position near to a focusing position (Fig. 7G), and moves a focus lens on the basis of the autofocus-control signal LD3. The present invention can be used for a video camera.